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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18374 01 OF 02 211843Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IGA-02 TRSE-00
OMB-01 MCE-00 /107 W
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P 211500Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5898
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 18374

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS CARRIED CHARGES THAT SOMALIS HAVE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18374 01 OF 02 211843Z

SIGNED SECRET AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT TO ACQUIRE ARMS; PAKI-
STANI PILOTS HAVE ARRIVED IN SOMALIA; "REACTIONARY ARAB
REGIMES" ARE RUSHING ASSISTANCE TO ERITREAN SEPARATISTS;
AND THAT WESTERN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS INVITED TO
OCCUPIED ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY IN OGADEN ARE WRITING
STORES FAVORABLE TO SOMALIS. END SUMMARY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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1. PRAVDA DEC. 21 CARRIES TASS STORY DATELINED LONDON ENTITLED "THEY ENFLAME THE CONFLICT." STORY CONTENDS THAT A "HIGH RANKING" SOMALI DELEGATION RECENTLY ARRIVED IN CAIRO "FOR NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT SUPPLIES OF ARMS BY EGYPT TO SOMALIA." ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT A "SECRET AGREEMENT" TO PROVIDE HEAVY ARMS TO SOMALIA WAS SIGNED FOLLOWING THE TALKS, AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL FINANCE THE "BARGAIN". ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE SAME SOURCES, ABOUT THIRTY PAKISTAN PILOTS RECENTLY ARRIVED IN SOMALIA" TO REPLACE SOMALI CIVIL PILOTS. (COMMENT: ARTICLE'S CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO FREE SOMALI PILOTS FOR MILITARY DUTIES. END COMMENT.)

2. DECEMBER 20 IZVESTIYA CARRIES STORY FROM SPECIAL IZVESTIYA CORRESPONDENT A. NIKANOROV IN ADDIS ABABA. ABBRIEVIATED VERSION OF STORY WAS RUN ON TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE WIRE SERVICE LATE DEC. 20. IZFESTIYA PIECE BEGINS BY DESCRIBING MENGISTU REGIME'S INTERNAL THREATS. NOTES THAT SHOTS AND OCCASIONAL BOMB EXPLOSIONS PUNCTUATE THE EVENING CURFEWS IN ADDIS ABABA. CLASS STRUGGLE CONTINUES. MONARCHIST-FEUDAL FORCES UNDER THE BANNER OF ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE CHALLENGE THE REGIME AND ITS AGRARIAN REFORMS FROM THE RIGHT. PETTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18374 01 OF 02 211843Z

BOURGEOISE ELEMENTS IN THE ULTRA-LEFTIST ORGANIZATION, PEOPLE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, ARE ATTEMPTING TO MARSHALL SUPPORT FROM THE LEFT. ARTICLE STATES THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AMONG HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS ON THE QUESTION OF TRANSFORMING SOCIETY. IN FEB. 1977, BRIGADIER GENERAL BANTI WAS INVOLVED IN "NOT THE FIRST" AMONG ATTEMPTED COUPS. OFFICERS POSSESSING A REVOLUTIONARY MOOD UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MENGISTU "UNCOVERED THE DANGER IN TIME AND NEUTRALIZED THE PLOT". (NOTE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS PIECE DOES NOT MENTION TWO OPPOSITION ALLIANCES OR BG BANTI. END NOTE.)

3. ARTICLE ACCUSES "REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES" OF PLAYING ON "NATIONALIST AND RELIGIOUS FEELINGS" IN RUSHING ASSISTANCE TO ERITREAN SEPARATISTS TO AID THEIR FIGHT AGAINST ADDIS ABABA, AND CHARGES THAT "THE GUARDIANS LAVISHLY SUPPLY MONEY AND ARMS TO THE 'SUPRESSED ERITREANS; AS THEY CALL THE SEPARTISTS."

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18374 02 OF 02 211741Z
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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IGA-02 TRSE-00
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P 211500Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 18374

4. ARTICLE THEN ASSERTS THAT REGULAR FORCES OF THE SOMALI ARMY UNDER THE SCREEN OF THE "LIBERATION FRONT OF WESTERN SOMALIA" ARE OPERATING IN THE OGADEN AND CLAIMS THAT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HURRIDLY INVITED INTO THE "SEIZED TERRITORIES WILLINGLY PICK
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18374 02 OF 02 211741Z

UP THE THEME OF THE 'JUST WAR' OF THE NOMADS OF SOMALI

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NATIONALITY".

5. TURNING TO ETHIOPIAN REACTION, ARTICLE NOTES THAT CONFLICT IS CLEARLY "A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND OF THE CHARTER OF AFRICAN UNITY"; STATES THAT SOMALI TROOPS ARE BEING DRIVEN BACK WITH GREAT LOSSES OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT; DENOUNCES THE "CANARD" ABOUT "THE PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN TROOPS ON THE ETHIOPIAN SIDE"; AND CHARGES THAT, IN THE WORDS OF AN ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, "SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS" WERE BEING USED TO COVER UP THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY REACTIONARY REGIMES TO SOMALIA.

6. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT FINAL VICTORY PREDICTED IN RECENT SPEECH BY ETHIOPIAN PMAC CHAIRMAN IS ASSURED SINCE THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME'S "NEW POWER" IS EMBEDDED IN ITS PEASANTS ASSOCIATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS OF URBAN DWELLERS, TRADE UNIONS, YOUTH AND WOMENS' ORGANIZATIONS.

7. COMMENT: WITHOUT MENTIONING THE EXISTENCE OF SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE ETHIOPIANS, THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE ARTICLES IS TO DEFEND THE SOVIET ACTIONS BY POINTING AT THE "OUTSIDE" ASSISTANCE WHICH THE SOMALIANS ARE RECEIVING AND TO POINT TO THE "VIOLATIONS" OF THE NATIONAL FRONTIERS OF ETHIOPIA BY SOMALIA. IN PROPAGANDA TERMS THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST ARGUMENT THE SOVIETS CAN MAKE TO DEFEND THEIR AIRLIFT OF ARMS TO ADDIS, AND WE EXPECT THEM TO CONTINUE TO USE THIS LINE OF DEFENSE, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT MENTION THE AIRLIFT IN THEIR OWN PRESS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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